



The Star



Issue #107

"We Speak Their Names"

Winter 2023

A MARINE DIED ON IWO JIMA... HIS MEMORY LIVED ON

By Penny Dale Bernstein



Above: PFC Thomas Victor Dale, USMC. Dale was KIA during the assault on Iwo Jima Feb. 19, 1945.

My father, PFC Thomas Victor Dale, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Marines, 4th Marine Division was drafted and left for Camp Pendleton boot camp in March 1944. He was killed in action February 19, 1945, on Iwo Jima.

At 28 years old he was one of the oldest Marines to fight on Iwo Jima. He was part of the first wave of Marines to hit the beach that fateful day, but when the bow ramp on the Higgins boat he was in did not deploy the men were ordered over the top. My father was shot in the face and shoulder and instantly died.

As most orphans of WWII do, the three children he left behind - Danny was 6, Bonnie was 4 and Penny was 18 months - have always longed for more information. The first recollection I had of my father was a big green steamer trunk in our basement, full of mementos and an extensive number of letters which were written between my father and mother during his 11 months of service... but I wanted more information!

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My mother, Ruby went through a lot after my father was killed. She spoke little of him, which I have learned was not unusual for spouses of that era. With three small children to raise and losing her own mother six months after my father was killed, she had much to consider, and it was a very difficult time for her. But my siblings and I always wanted to know what he was like.

We moved from Indiana to Salt Lake City, Utah when I was only three years old. She had our father's remains returned from Iwo Jima and buried in Salt Lake City. All the while, my mother worked to educate herself. Through her resourcefulness and determination she succeeded in securing a good career and

A Marine Died, Continued pg. 3



President's Message

by Walt Linne

Happy belated New Year!

Our first Board meeting of 2023 was held on Sunday, January 21, starting our 32nd year of providing governance and guidance to the American WWII Orphans Network. Our stated AWON mission remains unchanged: To locate and bring together sons and daughters of those who died or went missing as a result of American involvement in World War II, to honor the service and sacrifice of our Fathers, and to provide information and support to these people who were orphaned by the war.

I want to welcome the 2023-2024 AWON Board members - Bob Holliday, Judi Kramer, Robert Meek, Jr., Lorin McCleary, Walt Linne, Rik Peirson and especially our new Board members, Ken Underwood II, first-time Board member and son of LT Ken Harry Underwood, Roberta Nolan, first-timer and daughter of James O'Boyle Lyons, and Bonnie Hellums, previously a Board member and daughter of 1LT Pete Blackford. Many thanks to Bob Meek and Lorin McCleary for conducting the election process.

Second, I want to thank our outgoing Board members and Colonel Jack Forgy Distinguished Award recipients Barry Barr-Finch and Gloria Zuccarella Layne. Barry has been a longtime Board member, Past National Conference Co-chair, founding Director of the Regional Coordinators, and is the AWON Facebook Coordinator. Gloria has also been a longtime Board Member, Past President and Past Vice President, and actively works with associate organizations like the Gold Star Wives, Vietnam Son and Daughter In Touch (SDIT), Tragedy Assistance Programs for Survivors (TAPS), and the American Battle Monument Commission (ABMC). Both Barry and Gloria have voluntarily agreed to stay active in their extracurricular roles and will continue to regularly report to the Board.

The sparse response to the question of holding the next National Conference this year has resulted in the decision that our next National Conference will be held in 2024 instead. More information to follow.

Our AWON finances remain very strong with the 2022 budget ending "in the black". Thanks to the continued support of our membership and the wonderful efforts of all our volunteers.

Finally, the primary theme of our new Board is *The Future of AWON*. It is the Board consensus, to quote our newest Board members, "We need to improve our membership communications in our process of reaching out



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...President's Message, from previous page

to our orphans, and to reinvigorate our Membership Committee. It is up to us to preserve our Father's memory and to pass that preservation on to future generations of Americans, to provide opportunities for our children and grandchildren to encourage and facilitate their interest in AWON." New Board member Roberta Nolan said it more succinctly by proposing "Project Torch" - facilitating outreach to the next generation. Our heroes lit the torch, AWON members are carrying the torch and we must pass the torch to our children and grandchildren so they can carry on, ensuring our heroes are perpetually honored. Past, present, future.

In Their Memory. Never forgotten!

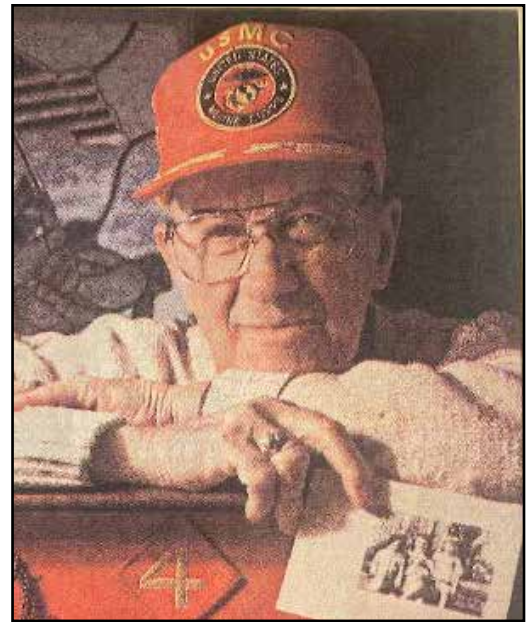
...Marine, from front page

making a good life for us. My mother remarried, but it was a troubled marriage and the man she married was unable to accept the three of us. They divorced after ten years.

In 1993, 49 years after the battle of Iwo Jima, I was working for an organization that promoted military conventions and meetings. I began to do some research and submitted a request to the 4th Marine Division Newsletter, "The Fighting Fourth," asking if anyone had knowledge of my father. It proved to be a GREAT SUCCESS!!



Above: The treasured Dale Family photo that was shown to Charley Frey by PFC Thomas Dale before he was killed on Iwo Jima, February 19, 1945. Ruby Dale holds baby Penny on her lap, with daughter Bonnie and son Danny standing at either side of their mother.



Above: Charley Frey, a friend of Thomas Dale, poses with the Dale family picture that he was shown a short time before the two men landed on Iwo Jima. This photo was published in the **Lancaster New Era** newspaper, Lancaster, PA, Saturday, Feb. 19, 1994.

I heard from three Marines that knew my father. I was surprised to learn they all remembered the same wonderful things about him. First, he had a beautiful tenor voice that accompanied them on their training marches. During their relaxing moments they would pay him to sing for them with sodas (he did not drink alcoholic beverages). Second, he was a family man. The Marines could never understand why he was drafted with three small children and at the age of 28.

The greatest surprise was PFC Charles Frey (Charley as he became known to me). He not only knew my father but had become friends with him when they trained on Maui, and even more importantly had talked to him just before my father boarded the Higgins boats to invade Iwo Jima at 9:05 a.m. on February 19, 1945. Thanks to Charley, we were able to hear for certain that he was thinking of us until the last. I never really knew what his feelings were, and it meant the world to know that he really thought so much of us. "It's a connection to something that we've never had," was my sister's response.

Marine, Continued page 4

...A Marine on Iwo Jima, from page 3



Above: The temporary gravesite of PFC Thomas Victor Dale, on the island of Iwo Jima

Below: The Dale children, Danny, Bonnie, and Penny, visit their father's resting place at Lake City Cemetery, in Salt Lake City, Utah

Thomas Victor Dale's headstone in Salt Lake City



In his own words Charley Frey describes when he first saw my notice in the "The Fighting Fourth" newsletter, and sat down to write his letter to me.

There it was, 49 years later, halfway down page 11 in the Mail Call section of "The Fighting Fourth".

"The memories came flooding back, memories that were still close to me even after 49 years when he and his Marine buddies stormed ashore on Iwo Jima. I came home with two memories, a shrapnel in my chest from a Japanese mortar and an image of a tall dark-haired soldier holding fiercely onto a photo of his wife and children as he went to war. PFC Tom Dale, the Marine and soldier whose beautiful tenor voice led the singing on training marches. The family man."

It was early in the morning of February 19, 1945, the Marines on one of the many troop ships ringing Iwo Jima were awaiting their final chow call: steak and eggs. Down in the troop compartment all the Marines were stowing their gear in seabags and making final preparations for battle when my friend and fellow Marine, Tom Dale, approached me. Now, just hours before the takeover of Iwo Jima began, Dale had an odd question for me. "Are you going to take a family picture with you onto the island?" he asked. I said no, since it was forbidden for soldiers to take any personal effects into battle with them for intelligence reasons. Dale showed me a photo of two small children standing with a woman holding a baby in her arms.....his family back in Indiana. "I'll never go any place without this" he said, "This goes wherever I go." The two chatted for a few minutes and then Dale returned to his bunk area. It was the last time I ever saw him. Tom Dale was killed hours later.

I heard of Tom's death while lying in a foxhole that night, as the casualties spread from trench to trench. I never forgot Tom's discussion. From the time I heard he was killed, whenever I think about the battle I think about our discussion.

I carried around the memory of my final conversation with Tom Dale for years, including it in a videotaped account of my war experiences that

I made in 1989. I was stunned to see the notice in 'The Fighting Fourth' and wanted Dale's family to know what was in the young Marines head just before he died. I knew it would mean a lot to them, but how much I could not have guessed."

When I received Charley Frey's letter, I immediately called him. The first thing he asked was "Which child were you in the picture?" I told him that I was the baby in the picture. He said, "You were the baby wearing a bonnet sitting on your mother's lap?" He remembered the photo with crystal clarity! After all those years it was hard for me to believe the impact a picture that my father had shown him 49 years prior, had made.

It has been 78 years now since the invasion of Iwo Jima. Our family will never forget Charley Frey. My sister and I had the opportunity of traveling to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to meet Charley and his wife Faye. We kept in touch over the years and I visited him in a rest home shortly before his death to tell him one more time how much he meant to me and our family. He will always be in our hearts, because he helped bring our father to life for us. My sister once said, "I knew there was a father, but I never really made the connection of having a father, until we met Mr. Frey."

My father was so much more than a man who died, he was a man who lived. Thomas Victor Dale was one of seven children born to Thomas Dale and Edith Mary Dale. Thomas was born, in Croydon, Surrey, England and lost his own father during WWI when he was 8 months old. My grandmother saved for over three years, selling most of their furniture for money and living in an empty house to be able to afford the passage to America. My father was 4 years old when they came to America.

After a very hard journey across the ocean, and processing through Ellis Island, they settled in Cambridge City, Indiana, where a brother of her deceased husband lived. It is incredible to believe that only 28 years after his father was killed in WWI our father was killed in WWII. His greatest fear would be to not have his children have a father, as he did growing up.

Thomas Dale was not only a talented tenor singer but was also a prolific poet, actor and drummer, participating in many plays and bands during his high school years and short life thereafter. We are fortunate to have, because of the USO, the records that he recorded with him singing and talking to all three of us. Because of technology we can hear him on our phones at any time.

The letters my mother saved are a treasure trove of information, giving us a glimpse into our lives over those 11 months our father was in the service, as well as their feelings, aspirations and disappointments. My mother and father were deeply disappointed when a trip she had planned to California to see him, before he was shipped overseas to Maui for further training, was canceled when his division's departure was expedited. The letters also gave us a snapshot of his life in the military, which were so detailed that they even included the cost of articles he had to purchase for his personal use - married men were paid \$25.00 per month and their wives \$25.00 per month, single men were paid \$50.00 per month, haircuts \$.50, shoestrings \$2.00-2.50, \$2.00 for transportation to town and if you wanted butter on your bread, it was extra.

This past year, my sister found in all those many letters, three which we had never seen before, written to each of us by our father on November 1, 1944. Those letters are now treasured, framed and hanging in our homes.

We also have some treasured poems that he wrote, which can be found on Page 7 of this newsletter.

My sister expressed so well the loss of our Father:

Losing your father affects your whole journey in life. You feel emptiness always, but especially at special events..... graduations, weddings, and a deeper loss whenever I see a father and daughter together.

The Price of Freedom has always been evident in our lives.

We want to share your story! Contribute to *The Star* today!

As we head into AWON's next Thirty Years, we here at *The Star* want to urge every AWON member to share the story of your father's life, your family's loss, and your personal journey to learn more about where you came from.

It's easy - our editors will do all the hard stuff, we just need to hear from YOU! Submit today!

Even if you've sent your story in before, please don't hesitate to get in touch with *Star* Editor Kristin Holmes again! Sometimes stories don't fit in a particular edition and especially in the digital age, things occasionally get lost along the way. If you'd submitted your story to another person it's even possible it wasn't seen by the present editor. We want to publish as many of your stories as possible! Don't wait!

atomicsagebrush@gmail.com

Guidelines for stories can be found on pages 18-19 or online at: <https://www.awon.org/stardetails>

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The new MeWe ListServ



Be Sure to Follow AWON on Social Media!!!

The Star Guidelines for Submitting Material

We want to tell your story and your family's story. We accept submissions both electronically and via US mail. If you have an article or picture and aren't sure how to submit it, that's ok. Message *The Star* and we will work with you.

Please keep text reasonable in length. 500-1000 words or 1 page is a good guideline, but we publish longer pieces too. Preference is given to material written by, for, and about AWON members and families.

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Looking for Back Issues
of *The Star*?

The Star can be found
online here:

[https://www.awon.org/
past-issues-1](https://www.awon.org/past-issues-1)

You can buy paper back
issues from the AWON
Bookstore, pg 23.

Here are two of Thomas Victor Dale's poems.

Prayer Sincere

The day is long from sun to sun
Darkness, light, seems like day is never done
Way out here away from those at home,
Working, praying riding on the crested foam
Time seems awful long and slow
Wonder if this time could faster go?

Don't think me impatient if I say,
Hours are lonely away from love ones everyday,
Thinking, wondering, if they're alright
Spending many a lonely and sleepless night
It makes a fellow awful blue and low,
So, no wonder I want this time to faster go

By Thomas Victor Dale, January 18, 1945

America

America is my homeland
The place I'd like to be,
The place once more I want to stand
With the folks I'd love to see

America is a free land
Our Fathers saw to that,
Our independence they carefully planned
And the minutemen upon it stood pat

America, is a tried land
Her honor will never die
For the people who live on this fair strand
Still are led by the sign in the sky.

By Thomas Victor Dale, date unknown

Call for Tributes!

Add a Tribute to the AWON Website! This could be one of the most long-lasting and satisfying ways to remember your Father, Grandfather, Brother, or Uncle. Just be a current AWON Member!

Here's How: 1. Have a look at our website's **TRIBUTE** section at www.awon.org (click "Our Fathers") to see what others have done; 2. Check the web page on "How to prepare a Father Tribute" – (at www.awon.org/check5.html); then 3. Scan (or have a Kinko's scan) your best picture of your loved one in uniform; 4. Collect your thoughts, memories, and service record of your loved one; 5. Send your JPG-formatted image and between 500 and 1,100 words to our Tribute Stager, Nancy Sue Johnson. Her E-Mail address is . . . janceysue@gmail.com. If you need her snailmail address, just call Nancy Sue at 406/529-2315.

Don't let another day go by. AWON is honored to help you honor your Father or loved one! . . . a Tribute page is yours for the asking.



AWON Moments

By AWON President Walt Linne

The mission of our AWON Moments series is to review AWON history, celebrating special moments experienced by AWON orphan members since Ann Bennett Mix founded the organization in 1991.

From American WWII Orphans Network Newsletter Issue #51, December 2008 – ‘Happy Jack’ changed orphans with his knowledge, research. Forgy Remembered as ‘Oracle’. Tribute to Jack Forgy by Sam Tannenbaum. “As a soldier, Colonel Jack O. Forgy served for 32 years including two tours in Vietnam. We surely thank him for his service. As a researcher Jack helped World War II war orphans focus on the kaleidoscope of daddy data. We thank and revere him for that service as well. Jack spent months arranging the AWON tour of the National Personnel Records Center in St Louis in 1998. He mentored us through the process of gathering essential information and spent thousands of hours at the National Archives researching information on our Fathers. He was our source of wisdom: our Oracle of Adelphi, Maryland.”

Issue #52, March 2009 – AWON Archives Looking for Your Newsclip, Manuscripts by Ann Wheeler O’Connor. “Did you know that AWON has an archives? Whether you did or not, here’s the details: The intent and purpose of the AWON Archives is to collect and preserve newspaper and magazine articles about our Fathers or grandfathers. These articles also serve to chronicle the impact on the lives of children left fatherless as a result of the Second World War. This collection is primarily intended as an historical, archival record about our Father’s service and sacrifice, presented in newspaper and magazine articles preferably in original clippings. Note: The AWON Archive was closed out on 2018 and sent to the National WWII Museum.”

Issue #53, June 2009 – AWON’s Regional Coordinator Program is Guided by Barry Barr-Finch. Sometime back I took on the job of Director of Regional Coordinators. My purpose is to get local members together for some kind of gatherings. The idea is to have orphans meet on a somewhat regular basis. The conferences provide a setting for this, but less than half our members get to conferences for one reason or another. That is where Local Regional Coordinators (LRC) come in. The LRCS plan local

meetings where orphans can meet and share their stories.” Note: A special thanks to Barry for continuing as the Director of Regional Coordinators.

Issue #54, September 2009 – Unmarried Widows Eligible for DIC Benefits. “AWON member Jim Briggs knows how important the Veteran Administration’s Dependency and Indemnity Compensation program (DIC), is to his mother and him and wants to remind other members about its benefits. Widows of servicemen killed in WWII (those who died on active duty or from service-related disabilities) who are now unmarried – through divorce or death of their subsequent spouse, regardless of how many times they remarried after the war – are eligible for a monthly benefit under the VA’s Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program. The required claim form, VA Form 21-534, can be printed out from the VA website www.va.gov or even filled in online and then printed out for sending to a VA regional office.”

Issue #55, December 2009 – Save the Date! For the 2010 AWON National Conference in Annapolis, Maryland at the Doubletree. Nov 11 – 14, 2010. More Details to Come.

Unforgettable AWON Moment – ‘Mama Jo’ Fund to Help Orphans Attend National Conferences. On January 4, 2009, Josephine “Mama Jo” Stanek passed away. She is the mother of AWON member Dave Stanek and was well known to many AWONers, especially those who met her at AWON’s national conferences. “I thought of Mom’s concern and affection for all the AWONers she had met and an idea was forming.” In her memory, Dave has established the Mama Jo Memorial Fund to help orphans attend future conferences. Contributions to the Mama Jo Memorial Fund may be sent to AWON.

Please send your AWON Moment to:
AWON STAR
5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216
Or email to president@awon.org

Walter Linne, brother of John
Sons of Walter John Linne
KIA March 24, 1945
Germersheim-on-the-Rhine, Germany

Huge congrats to the 2023 AWON Board of Directors!



**Ken Underwood
Rik Peirson
Roberta Nolan
Robert (Bob) Meek
Lorin McCleary
Walt Linne
Judi Kramer
Bob Holliday
Bonnie Hellums**



**And many thanks to our
outgoing Board Members:**

**Barry Barr-Finch
Barbara George
Gloria Layne
For their ongoing service to AWON!**

AWON Wishes to Thank New & Renewing Members from Winter of 2022 through Spring of 2023!

Thanks to each and every AWON Member who helps keep our mission alive!

Marion Lake
Suzanne Turney
Mary-Anne Collins
Geri Ann DeMicco
Rolla Harding
Bob Holliday
Carroll Candance Kiene
Evelyn Sheppard
Michael Park
John Phelan
John Polgar
Patricia Morrison
Ruby Wolens
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recently?

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know about any change
of address by messaging
us here at THE STAR!

By Email:

atomicagebrush@gmail.com
or star@awon.org

Or by snail mail:

Kristin Holmes

PO Box 242
Creston, Wa 99117

AWON: Orphans of World War II seek comfort

By Vivian Blevins, originally published in the **Daily Advocate Early Bird**
with contributions from AWON Member Nick Mott

*This article, written by Vivian Blevins and originally published in the **Daily Advocate Early Bird**, was shared with us by Nick and Darlene Mott. Nick added parts of his own story to the original. He wrote, "I encourage each of you to share AWON...and your experiences with your local newspapers, to hopefully locate new Orphans and keep the memory of your loved ones alive."*

Are you old enough to remember World War II? Or did you learn about that war in a high school or college classroom? Or perhaps your interest in the topic led you to bookstores and libraries in search of information? Maybe you have been fortunate enough to talk with a veteran who was at the Beaches of Normandy or at Dachau after Americans liberated that death camp?

Have you been to cemeteries in Europe where rows of white crosses stand for those who gave all, or maybe you have been to Arlington National Cemetery? Perhaps you have studied the monuments in your small hometown where the names of those who perished in that war are engraved?

In 1991, Ann Bennett Mix founded the American World War II Orphans Network (AWON), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to honor Americans who died or are missing in action in that war and to locate and support their children. AWON estimates that there are 183,000 such children.

AWON publishes a newsletter; sponsors conferences and gatherings; assists members in locating and retrieving military records; encourages communications; and honors all veterans killed or missing

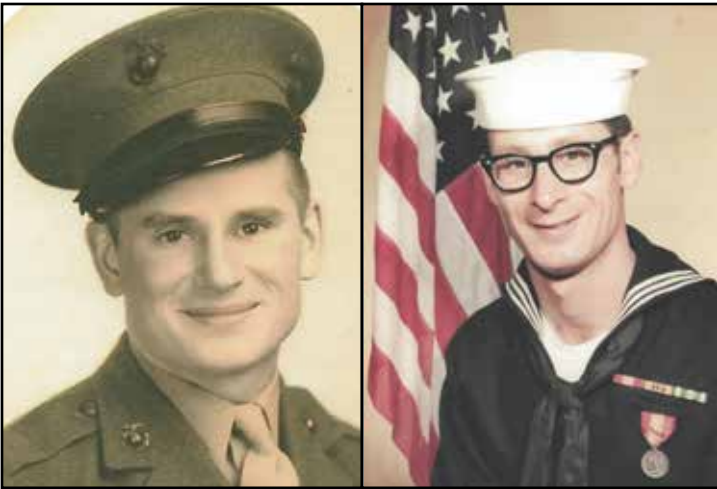
in action. IF you have a loved one that was killed or missing in World War II, go to: (www.awon.org/application) and join!

I spoke recently with Nick Mott, of Tipp City, the only child of PFC Garner William Mott of St. Paris. His father was a 1941 Christiansburg-Jackson High School graduate and basketball star and a U.S. Marine. At age 22 on May 7, 1945, Garner was killed instantly by mortar fire while in a foxhole in Okinawa. Prior to his death, he had written in a letter, "I can't wait to get back to the States and hold my son." Nick still has that letter with other mementos of his father.

In 1999, Nick was able to meet his father's platoon leader who was in the foxhole beside his father the day his father was killed. Nick says, "It seems I have always known that my father died in the war. My mother remarried Bob Brown in July of 1946, , an Army Air Corps veteran who was responsible for the maintenance of P-38s in Western Europe during the war. He was a nice guy, did things with me when I was young such as build me a kite. He built a sailboat, and took me fishing on Kiser Lake. Only until later years, did he confess, that he didn't want anyone to think he was replacing my biological father, overstepping."

Nick continued, "Growing up, I spent a lot of time on my maternal grandparents' farm outside of St. Paris, and spent some time on my paternal grandparents' farm. I never felt different from the other kids, because being an "orphan" was all I knew."

Nick added, "I always wondered what my life would have been like if my Dad had



Above left: PFC Garner William Mott

Above right: Garner's son, Nick Mott, a gunner's mate in the US Navy

returned home. My father was my Hero!

"Because of encouragement from my AWON family, in 1999, I attended the First Marine Division Reunion in Philadelphia, PA and was honored to meet my dad's comrades in K-3-5 who were with him in the Marines, and his platoon leader who was in the foxhole beside my Father when Dad was hit by mortar and killed instantly. They said that he was a great Marine, never cussed, was on the front lines all the time, and did everything above the call of duty. At their Banquet, they presented me with all the Medals my Dad had earned!

"I took my parents to the First Marine Division Reunion in San Diego in 2000, and they got to sit and talk with these fine K-3-5 men! It was healing for everyone! They always wondered about my Mother and me. They knew Dad had become a Father – and never got to see his son.

"The HBO miniseries *The Pacific* featured comrades of First Marine Division, K-3-5, tracing the last battles my father served in, and Okinawa, where he was fatally wounded. Hugh Ambrose came to one of their reunions and sat with us various times, interviewing the men who were there."

After high school, Nick felt it was his duty to also serve in the military, and he volunteered to serve in the Navy. His mother was not happy about it, and visited Congressman Clarence Brown to try to get Nick out of the military. Congressman Brown refused to intervene. Nick said, "Looking back, now, I realize how hard it must have been for her to see me leave, after losing her beloved husband."

Nick was a gunner's mate in the U.S. Navy from 1965 until 1969 and served aboard the USS Yorktown. He was stationed at the Nha Be Logistics Support Base in Vietnam where they were mortared and rocketed by the Viet Cong across the Soai Rap River, 30 miles from the Cambodian border. He says that his role was "to stay alive and do my job," which was to refuel and rearm helicopters, make ammo runs to Long Binh Base, and help secure the base with 50 caliber machine guns.

After her interview with Nick, Vivian Blevins, a Professor at Edison State College, who has a strong passion for all Veterans, wrote her weekly article for local newspapers and ended with the following sentiment:

In conclusion, the stories of the men and women who serve and of those who gave their lives in service, as well of those who mourn their loss, are worth remembering. The Land of the Free, because of the Brave.

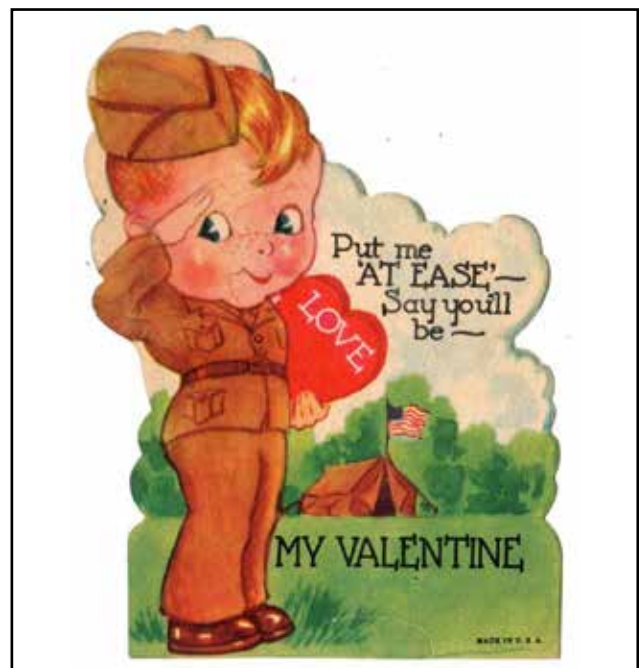
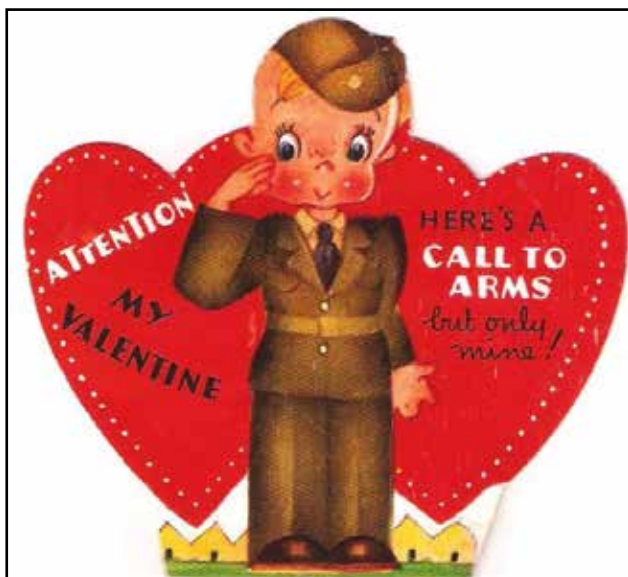
Thank you, Nick, for your service. And thank you for teaching your beloved daughter, Kelly Mott (1973-2022), my former student at Edison State, to carry forward the tradition of service by volunteering with the Miami Valley Veterans Museum in Troy, Ohio and serving on the Museum Board in 2013. And thanks to your wife, Darlene Mott, who supports veterans and serves as a volunteer at that museum.

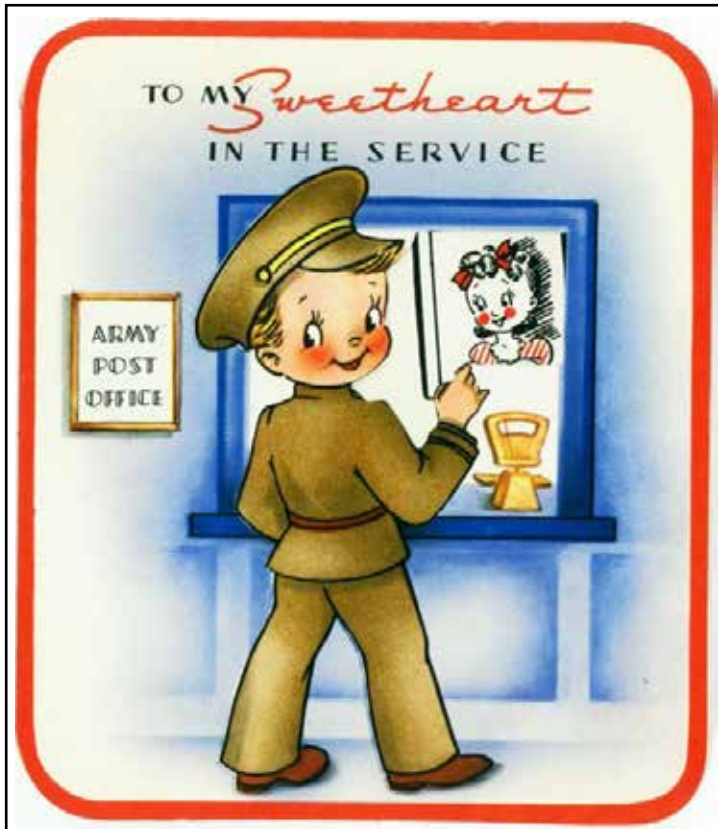
I am grateful.

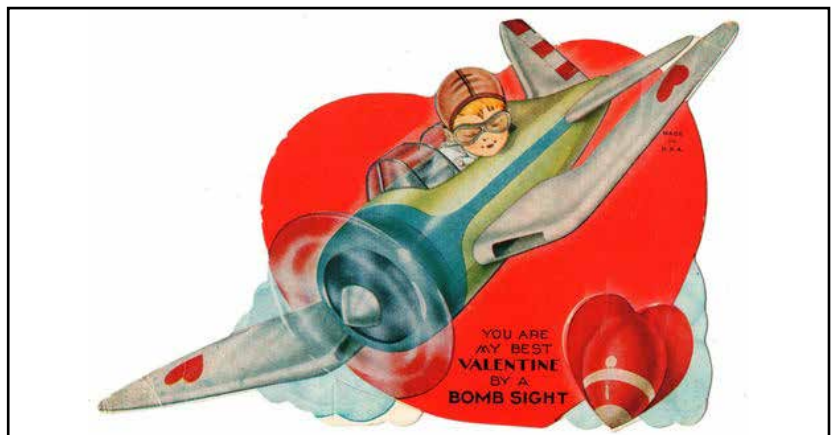
Valentines of WWII

Nowadays, we take the simple act of sending a greeting card to a loved one far away for granted. During the war years, they were incredibly meaningful to both sender and recipient. Servicemen fighting overseas missed family and friends desperately, while stateside, their loved ones agonized over the fate of their men so far away. Receiving correspondence from home dramatically boosted morale, and soldiers sending messages in return helped to ease anxiety on the homefront.

When Valentine's Day arrived, millions of civilians sent sentiments of love and affection to their sweethearts overseas. Mass-produced, cheery cards with handwritten notes inside were very popular, and their bright colors, military themes, and humorous puns provided a welcome distraction from the miserable conditions. Over the next few pages is a sampling of these little delights.







What about V-mail?



If you are thinking that all those Valentines would take a lot of effort to send to soldiers around the world in wartime, you're right. For everyday personal communications during wartime, the military quickly realized they needed something a lot smaller to carry messages

between soldiers and loved ones on the homefront. Soon, V-mail, (short for Victory Mail) was born. Instead of wasting an excess of scarce and precious cargo space to ship full sized letters overseas, microfilmed copies about the size of a thumbnail were made, then enlarged to a legible, but still small size (60% of the original) and delivered to the troops.

During the 1930s, the Eastman-Kodak Company, in conjunction with the airline industry, had repurposed space-saving technology used to preserve banking records during the 1800s to enable the microfilming of letters and documents. This technology saved companies high costs on air mail. The British military began using the technology to send messages called "airgraphs" to their troops overseas before America entered the war, and the US quickly followed suit.

Using V-mail meant that scarce, precious space could be reserved for war materials instead of mail. The 37 mail bags required to carry 150,000 one-page letters could be replaced by a single mail sack weighing only 45 pounds instead of 2500. Between 1942 and 1945, over a billion pieces of V-mail were sent from the U.S. to military post offices around the world, saving not only space but effort, gasoline, and time spent loading and unloading many bags of letters. In spite of the patriotic draw of V-mail, most people still sent regular first class mail. In 1944, for instance, Navy personnel received 38 million pieces of V-mail, but over 272 million pieces of regular first class mail - holiday treats like Valentines very much included.



At Top: Two promotional posters for the V-Mail program - his and hers. Above middle: a photo of the microfilming process and the outside of the official V-Mail envelope. Left: Another promotional poster, this one targeted at parents. Below: The importance of letters from home on soldier's morale was critically important for the war effort.



How do I prepare a story for **The Star**?

We NEED your submissions to **The Star**! Even if you've contributed in the past, please reach out again with your AWON stories. And if you contributed in the past and never heard back, please contribute again. Sometimes things get lost along the way, and the present editor may not even have seen stories submitted in the past.

The purpose of **The Star** is to serve the needs of AWON. While these tips help make the staff of **The Star**'s job easier, please don't hesitate to contribute, even if you can't meet all these guidelines. We want to tell your family's story, honor our fallen heroes, and share news and information that AWON members find helpful above all else, and we are happy to help in any way we can.

Before contributing, be sure to take a peek through this and other issues of **The Star** to get an idea of the type of features we publish. Most often, we share family stories about our fathers. That having been said, we are open to any submission - general history, biographies, current news items, editorials, fiction, art, and even poetry! We also love receiving pictures, and even if we can't run everything we receive in **The Star**, the extra items we receive are often featured on the AWON website.

The Star is published 4 times a year, Spring, Summer, Winter, and Fall. We can't always fit every article into every issue and sometimes we have to hold items for the next edition to include time-sensitive items. The sooner you submit your story, the more likely it is to be run in the next edition, but sometimes circumstances arise that make that impossible. Stories that are bumped will be given top priority for the next edition. If you don't see your story, message again! Sometimes things fall through the cracks and we rely on you to let us know if we missed something.

Here's a checklist on how to prepare articles for submission in **The Star** newsletter.

1) If writing a story about your father please include as much of the following info as you're able:

- Full name, nicknames if any
- Date and location of birth
- Where he grew up
- His childhood and education
- Occupation
- Military Unit
- Location where he served
- MIA, KIA, or Date of Death
- Burial and Memorial Info
- Any additional information of historic or military importance regarding his service

2) Please don't forget to include information about your extended family as well:

- Your name (PLEASE include your name in your contributions, we can't always figure out who you are from email alone!!!)
- Your mother's name
- Details of marriage (where and when)
- Father's parents' names
- Father's siblings' names
- Your siblings' names and ages at the time of your loss
- Where you grew up
- How the loss of your father affected your family both emotionally and in a practical sense
- Your search to learn more about your father

3) Tell your story in any way you feel is appropriate. While 1000 words is a good goal length, be as thorough as you feel is required to paint a full picture of your father and how his loss affected your family. **The Star** staff would rather have too much information than not enough!

It is best for us to receive your stories in .doc form

instead of PDF as this allows us to edit them more easily, but if that's all you have, we'll figure it out.

Some other details that may be welcome additions:

- How and why he joined the military
- His military training (what, when, and where)
- Military assignments and special duties
- Medals awarded and special commendations he received
- Date he was sent overseas
- Circumstances of his death
- Circumstances of his burial
- What you have heard about the kind of man he was
- A few of his favorite things
- What you and your siblings miss about your father
- The legacy he leaves behind

4) Any photos you have are welcome additions. However, we do NOT want you to take any chances with your precious and irreplaceable pictures. For this reason, electronic files of pictures are preferred. While we at **The Star** are willing to receive photos via US Mail, scan them in ourselves, and return them to you, this does put your photos at risk of loss or damage while they travel in the mail.

To avoid this danger, it is best if you provide electronic files of your pictures:

- Scan your photo with a scanner or have Kinko's or some other computer service bureau scan it for you
- Put the photo into a .JPG file format (and if you have the option, naming the file with your father's name really helps us identify who the photos are of.)
- Attach the electronic photo file to your email and send it to atomicsagebrush@gmail.com or star@awon.org.
- We can also accept contributions sent by a third party such as a child, grandchild, or friend via email, but be sure to identify who the photos are originally coming from and what article they're meant to accompany!
- If you don't have an email address and can't find someone to send the information on your behalf,

we are willing to receive photos via US Mail to Kristin Holmes, **Star** Editor, PO Box 242, Creston WA, 99117, but this should be a last resort as sending in the mail puts your photos at risk of damage or loss. Whenever possible, computer files are preferred to protect your precious and irreplaceable photos.

5) If your story has already been published in a newspaper or other location, it's fine to send a copy of that article IN ADDITION to telling your story in your own words. But we can't run already-published articles as written (unless you have received permission from the original writer for them to be rerun.) We also cannot use photos that have been printed in a newspaper. They are not suitable for scanning - we need the original photo or a digital file to get enough resolution for publication. Newspaper articles that are scanned into a computer sent in a .PDF file are also very difficult for us to transcribe (and the photos are not useable as they are part of the PDF and can't be moved separately, in addition to being inadequate resolution.)

It is best for us to receive your story in your own words, in a .doc form, with pictures sent separately as .JPG files, rather than copies of articles and photos published elsewhere. But we can work with you on that!

6) To send your stories and photos electronically please send to:

atomicsagebrush@gmail.com or star@awon.org

To send stories and photos via snail mail, please send to:

Kristin Holmes
Editor, **The Star**
PO Box 242
Creston, Wa
99117



Questions? Concerns?

You can always contact **The Star** Editor by phone at 509-279-5241 or via email at:

atomicsagebrush@gmail.com or
star@awon.org

AWON Financial Summary 2022, Page 1

(Page 2 on following page)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	AWON Financial Summary 2022	Actual	Proposed													
2		2021 Budget	2022 Budget	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Accumulative
3																
4	Budgeted Operating Income															
5	Membership Dues	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$193.00	\$1,454.00	\$1,439.00	\$510.00	\$576.00	\$96.00	\$1,084.00	\$852.00	\$188.00		\$1,124.00	\$665.00	\$8,181.00
6	Bookstore Income	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$40.00			\$23.00	\$100.00						\$12.00		\$175.00
7	Interest	\$200.00	\$50.00	\$0.41	\$0.37	\$0.41	\$0.39	\$0.41	\$0.39	\$0.41	\$0.41	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.41	\$4.81
8	Total Operating Income	\$12,400.00	\$12,250.00													\$8,360.81
9																
10	Non Budgeted Income															
11	Conference Registrations	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$1,384.50	\$800.00	\$4,850.50	\$7,199.50	\$650.00								\$14,884.50
12	Conference Program Ads							\$960.00								\$960.00
13	Donations	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$20.00					\$50.00	\$100.00	\$36.00	\$182.00			\$565.00	\$953.00
14	Amazon Prime	\$200.00														\$0.00
15	Total Non Budgeted Income	\$6,200.00	\$7,000.00													\$16,797.50
16																
17	Designated Purpose Income															
18	Wreath Income + Rollover from Paver	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$10.00	\$170.00	\$372.00	\$115.00	\$815.00	\$1,130.00		\$35.00	\$200.00		\$100.00	\$50.00	\$2,997.00
19	Victory Paver	\$3,000.00	\$1,375.00	\$1,625.00	\$50.00	\$655.00	\$100.00	\$570.00	\$2,930.00							\$5,930.00
20	Total Designated Income	\$4,000.00	\$3,375.00													\$8,927.00
21																
22	TOTAL INCOME	\$22,600.00	\$22,625.00													\$34,085.31
23																
24	Budgeted Expenses															
25	Bookstore															
26	Bank Fees (Bookstore Account)	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$60.00
27	Merchandise	\$100.00	\$100.00													\$0.00
28	Postage + USPS	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$8.23			\$5.20	\$111.46	\$13.41	\$15.89				\$7.68		\$161.87
29	Total Bookstore Expense	\$210.00	\$210.00													\$221.87
30	Conference															
31	Admittances Fees	\$0.00														\$0.00
32	Bank Fees (Conference Account)	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$5.00												\$5.00
33	Chairperson	\$0.00	\$0.00													\$0.00
34	Hotel	\$0.00						\$8,944.00								\$8,944.00
35	Audio/Visual	\$0.00	\$500.00						\$125.00							\$125.00
36	Banquet	\$0.00	\$1,500.00													\$0.00
37	Deposit	\$0.00	\$0.00													\$0.00
38	Meeting Rooms	\$0.00	\$500.00													\$1,200.00
39	Entertainment	\$0.00	\$1,500.00					\$1,200.00								\$1,450.00
40	Forgy Awards	\$0.00	\$2,500.00					\$416.50								\$416.50
41	Material/Supplies/Programs	\$0.00	\$500.00							\$554.94						\$554.94
42	Postage	\$0.00	\$50.00													\$0.00
43	Registration Refunds	\$0.00	\$800.00					\$1,400.00								\$1,400.00
44	Total Conference Expense	\$60.00	\$7,900.00													\$14,095.44
45	Database															
46	Manager	\$0.00	\$0.00													\$0.00
47	Software (Claris)	\$500.00	\$500.00												\$636.65	\$636.65
48	Hosting (Triple 8)	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$19.95	\$19.95	\$19.95	\$19.95	\$19.95	\$19.95	\$19.95	\$19.95	\$19.95	\$19.95	\$19.95	\$19.95	\$239.40
49	Value Added (Support Group)	\$400.00	\$400.00													\$0.00
50	Total Database Expense	\$1,400.00	\$1,150.00													\$876.05
51	Designated Purpose Expense															
52	Wreath and Banner															
53	Banners	\$200.00	\$200.00													\$0.00
54	Wreath Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$700.00													\$0.00
55	Shipping	\$200.00	\$100.00													\$0.00
56	Victory Paver - WWII Museum	\$3,000.00	\$1,375.00	\$3,000.00												\$3,000.00
57	Total Designated Purpose Expenses	\$3,400.00	\$2,375.00													\$3,000.00
58																
59																
60	Membership Committee Expenses															

AWON Members -

Is your father buried in a national cemetery?
Check out the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM)!

VLM is an online memorial space managed by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). NCA manages over 150 national cemeteries to honor our Nation's veterans, and memorializes more than 3.7 million veterans interred in those cemeteries in a digital memorial, providing a VLM profile page for each veteran, to which personal touches like photos and tributes can be added.

Find out more by visiting VLM's homepage at:
www.va.gov/remember

Corrections from Issue 106

Eugene Chauvin's C-47 Skytrain aircraft was not named. The photo identifying the plane by name was not the wreckage of Chauvin's plane.

There were ten paratroopers on board, not eleven, and the flight crew was five men, not four.

The Chauvins were married in 1940, not 1941.

After recovery, Chauvin's remains were taken to the military's DNA lab at Offut AFB for testing.

Chauvin's remains were recovered in 2021.

They were identified in 2022.

....Financial Report 2022 continued from page 18

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
61	Chairperson	\$0.00	\$0.00													\$0.00
62	Advertising	\$500.00	\$100.00													\$0.00
63	Direct Mail	\$200.00	\$100.00													\$0.00
64	Materials	\$0.00	\$100.00													\$0.00
65	Postage	\$100.00	\$100.00													\$0.00
66	Total Membership Expenses	\$800.00	\$400.00													\$0.00
67	Newsletter															
68	Editor	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$4,400.00
69	Data Processing	\$320.00	\$30.00										\$184.59		\$14.95	\$199.54
70	Print/Label/Mail	\$6,288.00	\$550.00					\$607.63	\$185.31							\$792.94
71	Fulfillment	\$0.00	\$25.00													\$0.00
72	Postage	\$1,482.72	\$600.00										\$141.57			\$141.57
73	Total Newsletter Expenses	\$12,290.72	\$5,405.00													\$5,534.05
74	Operation/Administration															
75	Archives	\$0.00	\$100.00													\$0.00
76	Arlington Wreath	\$200.00	\$250.00													\$0.00
77	Awards	\$0.00	\$500.00													\$0.00
78	Bank Fees (Money Market - elin 4/1)	\$200.00	\$0.00													\$0.00
79	Board Meetings	\$0.00	\$0.00													\$0.00
80	BOD Elections	\$0.00	\$200.00													\$0.00
81	Contingency	\$0.00	\$100.00													\$0.00
82	GoToMeeting	\$500.00	\$500.00											\$204.96		\$204.96
83	Headquarters															\$0.00
84	Insurance - Hartford	\$500.00	\$500.00							\$174.70					\$341.30	\$516.00
85	Postage	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$8.95	\$8.95	\$42.95						\$28.74				\$89.59
86	Supplies	\$100.00	\$100.00									\$40.75				\$40.75
87	Board	\$0.00	\$0.00													\$0.00
88	Miscellaneous-Returned check+Fee)	\$0.00	\$50.00											\$40.00		\$40.00
89	Non-Profit Requirements	\$0.00	\$0.00													\$0.00
90	Secretary Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00													\$0.00
91	State Fees	\$50.00	\$50.00													\$0.00
92	Tax Preparation	\$200.00	\$200.00													\$0.00
93	Treasurer	\$0.00	\$0.00													\$0.00
94	Total Operation/Admin Expenses	\$1,850.00	\$2,650.00													\$891.30
95	Outgoing Donations															
96	American Legion	500	500									\$500.00				\$500.00
97	Arlington Wreath	200	250													\$0.00
98	West Point - Cancelled 7/1	250	0													\$0.00
99	Miscellaneous	0	50													\$0.00
100	Total Outgoing Donations	\$950.00	\$800.00													\$500.00
101	Regional Coordination															
102	Mailing	100.00	100.00													\$0.00
103	Materials	100.00	100.00													\$0.00
104	Total Regional Coordination Expenses	200.00	200.00													\$0.00
105	Website															
106	Webmaster	\$0.00	\$0.00													\$0.00
107	Software (Adobe Cloud)	\$300.00	\$100.00													\$0.00
108	Hosting 1 Ndic (Formerly Impulse)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		\$300.00			\$300.00			\$300.00		\$25.00			\$925.00
109	Hosting 1 Squarespace	\$250.00	\$250.00													\$0.00
110	Total Website Expenses	\$1,550.00	\$1,350.00													\$925.00
111	TOTAL EXPENSES															\$26,043.71
112																
113	Total Income	\$22,600.00	\$22,625.00													\$34,805.31
114	Total Expenses	\$22,286.72	\$22,440.00													26,043.71
115	NET INCOME/-MINUS	\$313.28	\$185.00													\$8,761.60

AWON Monthly Financial Report - Winter 2023

AWON 2023 EOM Account Totals

Treasurer Report as of 2/28/2023

	General (Wreath)	Conference	Book Source	Money Market	Comment
JANUARY	\$24,843.19 (\$7,981.26)	\$1,553.53	\$416.38	\$48,078.92	Note: The General Fund includes (Wreath Fund) deposits.
FEBRUARY	\$22,710.95 (\$8,056.26)	\$1,553.53	\$1,409.58	\$48,079.29	
MARCH					
APRIL					
MAY					
JUNE					
JULY					
AUGUST					
SEPTEMBER					
OCTOBER					
NOVEMBER					
DECEMBER					



Gold Star Families Remembrance Week: On September 13, Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (MS) and Senator Raphael Warnock (GA) introduced Senate Resolution 761 designating the week of Sept. 18-24 as National Gold Star Families Remembrance Week - a tribute to all Gold Star and Survivor Families. For more than a century, Gold Star and Survivor Families have lost loved ones in combat, while on deployments, in training and to other causes while serving in the United States military. From Normandy, France to the skies over North Korea, from the Ia Drang Valley and across Vietnam, to Iraq and Afghanistan - and at places closer to home - these Gold Star and Survivor Families carry on the legacies of their fallen heroes during Gold Star Families Remembrance Week and every day of the year!

Above, Left to Right:

- Ed Peters III (AWON) - Gold Star Son of Capt. Edward A. Peters Jr., Army; KIA June 6, 1944, Normandy, France.
- Gail Ellifritz - Gold Star Daughter of Maj. Vernon Ellifritz, USAF; KIA July 15, 1953, North Korea.
- Thomas Barrett - Gold Star Son of SSgt. Thomas J. Barrett Jr. Army; KIA Nov. 15, 1965, Ia Drang Valley, Vietnam.
- Dennis Shine III - Gold Star Son of Cpl. Dennis F. Shine Jr., Army; KIA Aug. 19, 1969, Thua Thien, Vietnam.
- Colleen Shine - Gold Star Daughter of Lt. Col. Anthony C. Shine, USAF; MIA Dec. 2, 1972, North Vietnam; Remains returned 1996.
- Colin Hawkins - Gold Star Brother of Cpl. Michael B. Presley, USMC; KIA Dec. 14, 2005; Fallujah, Iraq.
- Arlene Wagner - Gold Star Mother of SSgt & Special Agent Peter W. Taub, USAF OIS; KIA Dec 21, 2015; Bajawri Village, Afghanistan.

The Friends of the National WWII Memorial Organization put together a Monthly Educational Conference Series on a variety of WWII-themed subjects. Several members of AWON have been featured so far in this series, including Sam Tannenbaum, Arthur Chotin, Janice Powers, Robert Meek, Gerry Morenski, and Nancy Kragh among others.

Additional videos have been made by historians like Friend of AWON Alex Kershaw, and even some videos made by veterans themselves.

These videos can be accessed easily at the Friends of the WWII Memorial site searching for "monthly video series" or by clicking this link: <https://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org/monthly-conference-series/video-archives>

Note - Be sure you click on the point of the "play" arrow in the lower corner of the video, rather than the back or center of the icon, as I had trouble getting them to play at first!



Membership



This is a

- ☐ New Membership
☐ Renewal
☐ Family Membership
☐ Database Registration Only

About You:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Home Phone _____
 Mobilephone _____
 E-Mail _____
 If you're renewing, skip to the Dues Section
 Your Relationship to Serviceman _____
 Your Date of Birth _____
 How did you hear about AWON _____

About your WWII Service Member:

Last Name _____
 First Name _____ M.I. _____
 Birthdate _____
 Hometown & State _____
 Military Unit _____
 Rank _____ Service Number _____
 Date of Death _____ Place _____
 Burial Location _____
 Wife's Maiden Name _____
 Additional information on your WWII Service Member's
 Military Service, Death, or Burial. _____

Please send your check:

Payable to AWON, include it with this form and send it to:

AWON Treasurer
5745 Lee Road
Indianapolis, Indiana 46216

Membership Types:

☐ **Orphan Member:** Any son or daughter of a member of the US Armed Forces, Coast Guard, or Merchant Marine who was killed, remains missing in action, or who died in the line of duty, or who later died of wounds or injuries sustained during WWII.

- ☐ **Family Member:** Other relations who are not a son or daughter.
☐ **Supporting Member:** Other individuals with an interest in WWII, who wish to support us and participate in our outreach activities and programs.

Membership Dues:

Basic Orphan Member Dues are \$25 a year – starting when we receive your check. This includes your AWON Membership Card, a Web Tribute for your father, a physical or E-version of our quarterly newsletter, **The Star**, a personal account on the AWON online List-serv, and an account on the AWON Facebook Page.

Family Member Dues are \$10 a year – includes an E-version of **The Star**, and \$25 a year – includes a printed version.

Supporting Member Dues are \$50 a year – includes either version of **The Star**.

Membership Dues Levels:

Please circle your Dues Level below:

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years
Orphan	\$25	\$48	\$70
Family (E-Star Version)	\$10	\$20	\$30
Family (Printed Star Version)	\$25	\$48	\$70
Supporting	\$50	\$96	\$140
Gold Star (Increased Donation)	\$100	\$192	\$280

Donation Considerations:

Memorial Day Wreath Fund \$ _____
 General Operations & Outreach \$ _____
 Total Dues & Donations Enclosed \$ _____



AWON (American WWII Orphans Network) is a humanitarian, non-profit, nonpolitical service organization under Section 501(c)3 of the US Federal Tax Code. (EINB #91-1538912) Membership is not required to be entered into the Database. For more information, the AWON Website is at www.awon.org.



AWON BOOKSTORE

Price List / Order Form

Books

Authors in **BOLD** are orphan or family members

Items marked with (*) include P&H

_____ <i>Pieces of Us</i>	
By Janice Crandell Powers	\$20.00*
_____ <i>A Daughter's Quest: Retracing My Father's Footsteps During World War II</i>	
By Laura Smail Sims	\$16.95
_____ <i>The Gun Club: U.S.S. Duncan at Cape Esperance</i>	
By Robert Fowler	\$15.99
_____ <i>Collateral Damage, A World War II Orphan: Lost and Found</i>	
By Reda Reynolds	\$9.00
_____ <i>Feisty: Chronicles & Confessions of an Old PR Warhorse</i>	
By Joe Finnigan	\$12.99
_____ <i>A Bit of Earth</i>	
By Wendy Crisp Lestina	\$13.95
_____ <i>K.I.A.: An Orphan's Search for His Father Through the Fog of War</i>	
By Patrick Audinet	\$10.00*
_____ <i>All proceeds from Audinet book benefit AWON</i>	
_____ <i>The Beauty of What Remains: Family Lost, Family Found</i>	
By Susan Johnson Hadler	\$15.00*
_____ <i>In Search of a Pilot: Hanford "Rusty" J. Rustand</i>	
By Marilyn Rustand Lieurance	\$7.00*
_____ <i>My Father: More than a Picture, a Beer Bottle and a Flag</i>	
By Jerry W. Pinkerton	\$12.00*
_____ <i>The Lost Submarine: A True Story of Love and War</i>	
By Nancy Kenney	\$16.00
_____ <i>"Daddy's Gone to War": The Second World War in the lives of America's Children</i>	
By William M. Tuttle Jr., PhD	\$30.00
_____ <i>In My Father's Words: Letters From a WWII Soldier</i>	
By Bill McElvain	\$16.00
_____ <i>Farebersville 1944</i>	
By Jeff Wignall	\$18.95
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To locate and bring together sons and daughters of those who died or are missing as a result of American involvement in World War II, honor the service and sacrifice of our fathers and provide information and support to these people who were orphaned by the war.

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